

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8719
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ID

SUBJECT: GOI RELEASES THREE MORE JANUARY 15 DETAINEES

REF: A. JAKARTA 5606 B. JAKARTA 7167

1. JAKARTA PRESS REPORTS THAT THREE MORE JANUARY 15 DETAINEES RELEASED EVENING JUNE 12. RELEASEES ARE: RAHMAN TOLLENG (FORMER GOLKAR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, RECALLED AFTER JANUARY 15 EVENTS), MARSILAM SIMANJUNTAK ("GENERATION OF 1966" ACTIVIST), AND HENK TOMBOKAN (UNIDENTIFIED, NOT PREVIOUSLY KNOWN TO EMBASSY AS BEING UNDER DETENTION). TOTAL OF REMAINING (UNTRIED) JANUARY 15 DETAINEES NOW 28, OF WHICH ONE, GADJAH MADA UNIVERSITY (YOGYAKARTA) STUDENT AINI CHALID, GOES ON TRIAL JUNE 23.

2. LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY KOMPAS JUNE 16 QUOTES TOLLENG AS SAYING AFTER RELEASE THAT HE NEVER AWARE OF CHARGES AGAINST HIM DURING 16-MONTH DETENTION, AND THAT HIS RECALL FROM PARLIAMENT BY GOLKAR (GOVERNMENT) FACTION CONSTITUTED PREMATURE "CONVICTION" BY THIS ORGANIZATION. KOMPAS EDITORIAL SAME DATE EXPRESSES RELIEF OVER RELEASES, HOPES FOR SPEEDING UP OF INVESTIGATIONS (AND RELEASES
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IF CALLED FOR) OF REMAINING DETAINEES, AND RECOMMENDS

POLICY OF "CLEMENCY".

3. COMMENT: LATEST RELEASE BRINGS TOTAL OF REMAINING
DETAINEES DOWN TO JUST UNDER HALF OF OFFICIALLY-ANNOUNCED
TOTAL OF 57 DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH JANUARY 15 AFFAIR.
MOST OF REMAINING DETAINEES ARE STUDENTS OR OTHER ACADEMIC
FIGURES. COMING ON HEELS OF RELATIVELY MODERATE SENTENCE
FOR SECOND JANUARY 15 DEFENDANT SJAHRIR (REF B), NEW
RELEASES REINFORCE IMPRESSION THAT GOI MAY BE OPTING
FOR GREATER LENIENCY IN RESOLVING REMAINING JANUARY 15
CASES. EDITORIAL FAVORING CLEMENCY IN KOMPAS, WHICH
NORMALLY EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN CHALLENGING GOVERNMENT
POLICY, SUGGESTS KOMPAS EDITORS BELIEVE GOI MAY BE READY TO
MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION ALSO. NO INDICATIONS AS YET,
HOWEVER, THAT GOI HAS DECIDED HOW TO DEAL WITH MOST
DIFFICULT DETAINEE CASES, THOSE OF UNIVERSITY INDONESIA
PROFESSOR AND FORMER SOCIALIST PARTY (PSI) FIGURE SARBINI,
FORMER PSI CHAIRMAN SUBADIO, AND PROMINENT LAWYER AND
CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST ADNAN BUYUNG NASUTION.
NEWSOM

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